



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

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For Immediate Release

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August 24, 2007

PSA-096

Ooey, Gooey, Slimy Slugs Spotlighted at Slugfest

They are moist and slippery and slimy to touch. At first glance, they appear to be a snail that's lost its shell. They're also the stars of the 2007 Slugfest, which is being held at Hidden Pond Nature Center in Springfield on Sunday, September 30 from 2 to 4 p.m. Going strong after 17 years, this popular children's program is back with more fun, slime-filled activities than ever before.

Slugs have an important role in the food web. As decomposers they eat leafy matter, fungus and other dead things. Often overlooked until they squish between your toes, the slow-moving slug normally resides in dark moist places well out of sight. At Slugfest the shy creatures will emerge from the shadows and be recognized in an array of slug themed activities.

Children will learn a little slug life history and create some unique slug slime art. Slime tossing and slug racing are back by popular demand, and slug-on-a-spoon simply needs to be experienced to be believed.

Also, don't miss the world premiere of this year's play, "The Wizard of Slugs", the story of slug-loving Dorothy, her pet slug Dodo, the wicked Slug-Salting Witch of the West, the Cowardly Beaver, Aluminum Boy, Straw Girl and other strange characters. Reservations are required for this program and the cost is \$4 per person. For reservations, please call 703-451-9588.

Hidden Pond is located at 8511 Greeley Boulevard in Springfield and may be reached by taking Route 95 south from Beltway Exit 57A to west on Old Keene Mill Road. Cross Rolling Road and turn left at the next light onto Greeley Boulevard and follow three blocks to the park entrance at the end of the street.

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Fairfax County is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in all county programs, services and activities and will provide reasonable accommodations upon request. To request special accommodations, call 703-324-8563 or TTY 703-803-3354. Please allow ten working days in advance of events in order to make the necessary arrangements.